

## 1844-1994: Where Do We Fit in?

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**F**or two consecutive years, I have had the privilege of working with the Adventist Heritage Association in restoring the William Miller home, located in north-west New York State. In June of 1993 and 1994, special Maranatha-type week-long work bees were organized to restore the exterior of this early 1800s farm home. We found the earliest siding largely intact under two layers installed by recent owners. We cleaned the original windows (after finding the poured glass panes still in good condition), refinished the old window sash, cleaned and repaired the original shutters, repaired the slate roof (Miller's roof was cedar shingle), and made other repairs. Over the two years, some 50 volunteers have rediscovered their Adventist roots through this most timely and necessary project.

The rediscovery was more than the cut nails, the deteriorated boards, and the wavy window panes; it was the sensitizing of oneself to Ascension Rock and the awe of worship in the small, reverent William Miller Chapel; it was a visit to the grave sites of William and Lucy Miller; it was taking a moment to visit with third- and fourth-generation descendants of this early Advent pioneer. This process took time, effort, concentration, and reflection—a great

deal of reflection. If God can use a military captain, a shipbuilder, and a self-taught Bible scholar, can He use me? If so, how? When? Where?

These thoughts continue to resonate in my mind. Does He need me more in the Department of Education at the General Conference? More as a restoration project coordinator? Or a multigrade classroom teacher? As a college professor? As a lay member? Where is my calling?

For William Miller, it was as an Advent preacher—destined to experience the greatest theological disappointment of this newly discovered truth. There, standing on the protruding rocks with his devoted followers, he had waited and waited. The bitter taste became reality, but the truth would be reconfirmed.

But still the questions remain. What is my role? Where do I fit in? As you relive this 150th anniversary year, may you experience the commitment, the dedication, the closeness, and the determination of

*Work underway at the Miller home.*

our early pioneers to finish God's commission, and then may we be ready to meet Christ face to face, perhaps on an ascension rock.

This issue of THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION has been developed to help Adventist educators refocus on the rich heritage that is so often found only in a back room or on a dusty shelf. Why not dust it off, develop a mini-series, and use these pages to challenge your students to come with you—to walk with William Miller, worship in the Miller Chapel, and sing the Advent hymns? It is our hope that as you utilize this issue, you and your students will find a closer relationship with Christ. R. E. G. ✍

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*Reo E. Ganson*



THE JOURNAL OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION publishes articles concerned with a variety of topics pertinent to SDA education. Opinions expressed by our writers do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the official position of the Department of Education of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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